

**Massachusetts Habitat Conservation Plan for Piping Plover  
Request for Certificate of Inclusion on North (Nauset) Beach  
Public Comments**

**Comment 1:** The proposed COI states on page 17 - A maximum of 50 vehicles per day (100 round trip passes) is proposed to be implemented. TOC will coordinate with DFW prior to initiation of the OSV program to confirm whether the 50 vehicle limit should be increased or decreased based on the location of bird activity and the morphological constraints of North Beach. There seems to be a contradiction in these two sentences in that a maximum can be exceeded after coordination with DFW. I believe the COI should reflect that in general, a maximum of 50 vehicles per day is proposed although there may be exceptions under specific circumstances.

**DFW Response:** This language has been clarified in the COI. 50 vehicles is the general limit for OSV use with possible exceptions coordinated by the Town of Chatham and DFW (COI page 17).

**Comment 2:** The proposed COI states on page 16 -A travel corridor, referred to as a self-escort corridor (SEC), is proposed to be established for self-escorted OSV passage by one (1) PIPL brood with unfledged chicks at distances closer than would normally be allowed by the Guidelines. Vehicles would be required to self-escort within this travel corridor and no vehicles will be allowed to stop or park until the brood has been passed by a minimum buffer zone of 200 ft. on either side of the identified brood. The beginning and end points of the travel corridor shall be readjusted by shorebird staff as necessary to ensure the minimum distances are maintained. I believe the HCP states that as a required minimization measure "Travel in the vicinity of unfledged chicks will be restricted to a single, clearly demarcated vehicle travel corridor less than 5 yards (4.6 meters) wide. Parking will not be allowed within 200 meters (218 yards) of unfledged chicks during the first week after hatching, and in no event will parking be permitted within 100 meters (109 yards) of unfledged chicks (see discussion of Federal Guidelines, above). Perhaps this is a typographical error, nevertheless, the final COI should reflect the Statewide HCP's conditions for this covered activity (Oversand Vehicle (OSV) Use in Vicinity of Unfledged Chicks).

**DFW Response:** This language has been corrected in the COI to reflect parking will not be permitted within 200 meters on either side of the brood (COI page 16).